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# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008ARR0010-000599
April 23, 2008

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

## BC150 GRANTS SUPPORT ABORIGINAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

VICTORIA – The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is providing $50,000 as part of B.C.'s celebration of 150 years to support organizations that will highlight the historical contributions made by the province's Aboriginal communities.

"Aboriginal heritage, culture and accomplishments date back further than 150 years," said Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister Michael de Jong. "These grants will help communities recognize the vital contributions of Aboriginal people in both B.C.'s past and future."

Five Aboriginal organizations will be provided grants of $10,000 each. Projects receiving grants include a celebratory website and photographic exhibitions by the Haida Heritage and Repatriation Society; "Listening to Our Elders" events organized by the Seabird Island Band; Aboriginal awareness initiatives by the Tsawwassen First Nation; an interactive First Nations history project by Sto:lo Heritage Trust Society; and the "amawilics" project organized by In-SHUCK-ch Services Society to raise awareness around the co-operation between the In-SHUCK-ch people and others who worked to build the first highway on the B.C. mainland.

"These organizations will develop projects to foster mutual understanding and cross-cultural awareness of the people and achievements that have defined our province," said de Jong. "I am excited to see these projects come to life as part of BC150's continued celebrations."

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is providing funds to support additional Aboriginal projects as an extension of the BC 150 Mosaic Grants initiative awarded by the Ministry of Attorney General through WelcomeBC in March 2007. With this funding, the Province has provided $350,000 in Mosaic Grants to celebrate B.C.'s heritage and build cross-cultural understanding.

BC150 is a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Crown colony of British Columbia in 1858. Every community is invited to participate in this year-long celebration of B.C.'s cultural diversity, community strength and achievement. For more information, please visit www.bc150.ca.

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